

March 16, 2007

House Appropriations Committee
Helena, Montana

Bill Beck, Tim Callahan, Edith Clark, Eve Franklin, William Glaser, Huntley
Ray Hawk, Cynthia Hiner, Galen Hollenbaugh, Joey Jayne, Dave Kasten, Bill McChesney, John
Musgrove, Rick Ripley, John Sesso, John Sinrud, Janna Taylor, Jack Wells, Craig Witte,

Re: HB667

Dear Representatives:

HB667 is critical to the preservation of Lewis & Clark sites in Montana.

With tourism being the primary commodity of our state, these sites are especially critical to local economies. Many of the sites are located in and around small towns, and are sometimes the only reason tourists will stop and visit, and spend money in the town for meals, hotels, souvenirs, etc.

Lewis & Clark is required learning for all school children. These sites offer our children a fresh and exciting experience with hands-on learning that nothing in the pages of a book can compare to.

There are only two Lewis & Clark sites along the entire 2800 mile trail with physical evidence of the expedition, and both are here in Montana. Travelers' Rest State Park, in Lolo, is one of them. Even though it is a state park, Travelers' Rest is given no state or federal money. Through an agreement with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, it is managed and maintained by a non-profit organization, and is dependant solely on private donations and grants. What a shame it would be to lose this site for lack of financial support. HB667 would provide this grant money that Travelers' Rest is dependant on, and would help boost to the economy for the town of Lolo.

Lewis & Clark traveled more miles in Montana than in any other state. They left a legacy that is part of our history, our culture, and our identity. These sites are rare treasures that *must* be preserved for future generations.

I urge you to vote YES for HB667.

Respectfully,

Vicki Correia

Vicki Correia
Missoula